

## CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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The process of "drying up" New Orleans has been started.

Atlanta's traction interests want to get in on the war profits game.

It is not yet too late to plant that victory garden, if you have not already done so.

Glory be! Allied and Greek troops are beginning to move on the Macedonian front.

The price of cotton dips slightly once in a while, but it still takes a pole to reach it.

Judge Roberts is out with that long-expected announcement. What do you think of it?

The liberty loan has practically reached the first billion. There should be a speeding up.

Of course you are going to subscribe for liberty bonds. Why not now and be done with it?

The manifest needs of the hour are that you abstain from the use of wheat bread and subscribe for liberty bonds.

London newspapers are of the opinion that frankness with the people is the best policy. It is also democratic.

It would be unjust to accuse of Gov. Rye of precipitancy in offering a reward for those Estill Springs lynchings.

Seven senators and seven representatives is the death roll of the present congress. And it has nearly a year to run.

Organized labor and employers of Minnesota have agreed on a program of arbitration of labor disputes in that state.

Secretary Baker says American soldiers have made good. But that's not news. Everybody knew they would do that.

Congress is beginning to discriminate between actual enemy aliens and loyal Germans who desire American citizenship.

With Grover Cleveland Alexander and "Rube" Marquard caught in the draft, baseball won't seem quite the same this year.

The Dutch foreign minister is ready to accept verbal guarantees of America and England, but is not so sure about Germany.

Cheers for the entente and for President Wilson must have a strange sound in Austria, but that is the story told by news dispatches.

Peru's cabinet has resigned. But that is really not a matter for much anxiety. Peruvian cabinets are of small consequence just now.

It seems meet that a nitrate plant should be located at Chattanooga. This city is a center toward which most everything is now gravitating.

Old John D. Rockefeller may be difficult for a tax collector to approach, but he is coming down handsomely with war work contributions.

With Folk and Gardner going after the Missouri senatorship, the race will have something more than an academic interest for Tennesseans.

Gallatin follows North Chattanooga in investing its sinking fund in liberty bonds, and we note that a Knoxville church is making similar investments.

Secretary Baker's statement that European newspapers are immeasurably behind those of America is borne out by copies which come to this country.

Lloyd George is not inclined to play with the Irish situation any longer. Either the home rule measure must be adopted or he will give up the government.

The United States district attorney over at Memphis cautions people against the repetition of "poison" and "ground glass" rumors unless the truth is known.

In temporarily eliminating former boys from the draft, the war department manifests its appreciation of the fact that food production as well as soldiers is necessary to win the war.

A correspondent of the Bristol Herald-Courier wants to know what has become of J. P. Morgan. We are inclined to think, however, that no news is good news. Mr. Morgan will take care of himself.

## FRENCH HEROES HAVE ARRIVED.

Gallant, blue-clad Poilus are reaching the Hazebrouck sector this morning, and the conflict will no longer be unequal. They are hoped to accomplish for Haig's hard-pressed veterans what Bluecher and his Prussians did for Wellington at Waterloo in 1815. Unlike Bluecher, however, Foch's heroes have not been defeated in this campaign, as was Waterloo's savior at Ligny. They will not have to drag a decimated army over miles of territory in order to come to the rescue. They are fresh from the fields of many victories, and join issues with Hindenburg with all the prowess that has known no defeat.

They come at an opportune time. Despite the magnificent resistance shown by the British first and second armies, they are being forced to retire from important positions. Meteren, north of Bailloul, has changed hands repeatedly, but the Germans are unable to advance further in that sector. The encouraging news came yesterday afternoon that the British had retaken Wytshate, on the Messines ridge. It was true, but later they were forced to give up the position. Mount Kemmel remains in our hands and it is the most commanding eminence there. Ypres, however, is almost bound to fall. The Germans are within two miles of it, and the British retirement from Passchendaele ridge and as far as Langemarck gives a considerable expanse of territory to the enemy, and will encourage them possibly to make a furious assault in this region.

That Hindenburg is not satisfied with his position near Bethune is indicated by the bombardment between Locon and Robecq this morning. This may presage an attack, intended to make all that sector untenable and, if possible, occupy Vimy ridge on its southern end.

Despite the discouraging news this is to be said in the side of the more hopeful: The enemy's progress at this stage is slow. The history of all such battle in this war, including that for Amiens, is that they come to a standstill. The forces opposing the German advance are constantly more formidable. Our troops maintain their spirits. They are infected with no panic. In the midst of these sad times they never falter in their belief that the allied cause will finally triumph. They did not give an inch yesterday.

Even though the British left is forced back on the coast, it is not yet in any danger of capture, and only by the complete annihilation or capture of the British armies will the enemy find himself free from the menace of a new attack from sturdy old Britain, with America and France hand in hand to make it a success.

## NEED IS URGENT.

The food administration of the country has been conducting a propaganda asking that the people adopt a wheatless ration until harvest in order that the American and allied troops at the front may have bread. Responses to the appeal have been generous, but the demand has not yet been supplied. Shipments of wheat and wheat flour are falling behind, which means that the soldiers' allowance must be curtailed. This is the real situation.

The movement for an entirely wheatless diet is an appeal to the volunteer spirit. It is projected in the confidence that the American people would make any needed sacrifice to sustain their troops in the field. It was thought to be only necessary to let them know as to what was required. In this connection, it may be that some have not become fully aware of the gravity of the situation. It is upon these that we would urge the importance of responding before it is too late.

Hotel men of Tennessee and elsewhere are organizing a concerted movement to cease serving wheat bread to their patrons. Soon it is hoped that all public eating places will have given up their biscuit to the boys in the trenches. But even this is not enough. Private families must fall into line to give the measure its full effect. Many have already done this and have turned over whatever of flour they had on hand to the local food administrators.

Have you any flour? Do you want to help our boys fight our battles in France? Call the food administrator over the phone and tell him to come and get it. You have a comfortable home and plenty of other things to eat. The soldier boys are living in camps and trenches, and must have bread. The appeals are not to somebody else, but to you. What are you going to do about it? The eyes of your neighbors and the country are on you!

## IRISH CONSTITUTION.

It's a great pity the work of the Irish convention is almost lost sight of, because of the agitation over conscription. Sir Horace Plunkett, who was chairman of the convention, is a man with many qualities like our Washington. When a level-headed leader who was not too much involved in the factional disputes, was wanted the government turned to him. For years he had been one of the most useful citizens of Ireland. He had devoted himself to the promotion of Irish interests, agriculture, co-operative banking, and the like. His report does not submit an actual draft of a constitution, but merely recites the principles to which three-quarters of the convention agreed. In several details there is a wise adaptation of our constitutional provisions to the special needs of Ireland. There is a guarantee of 40 per cent. of the representation to the unionists. There are limitations on the legislative power, but these concern largely foreign relations, the crown, and money bills.

We shall not now go into detail as to the proposed constitution. A very important concession is that Ireland shall, despite home rule, continue to have representation at Westminster. This is not granted Canada, or Australia, or South Africa.

"Even if you put Ulster in a subordinate position to the rest of Ireland, with which she is now threatened, and if you put me under a government of nationalists or Sinn Feiners, I support it because no more detestable domination could be put over the world than that of the Germans."—Sir Edward Carson. In this declaration Sir Edward stars as a 100 per cent. patriot. It is the most comforting news yet received on the Irish question.

There are a few citizens in Franklin county, according to our news columns, not subject to the draft, who are willing to do their bit by holding the floors while the boys are away.

It seems queer in this country that Count Cernan should have been considered an impediment to peace in Austria. He was regarded by Americans as an advocate of peace by understanding.

## "THE MAIN POINT."

E. J. Hamilton, in a letter to one of the Nashville newspapers, expresses the opinion that none of the agitators of questions of finance and taxation in Tennessee "has struck the right key-note." While the uniform assessment of property "might be the right thing to do," he is convinced that, in increasing the available revenues, its only practical result would be an increase of prodigality which, just now, would be grievous for the taxpayer to bear. Following is a part of Mr. Hamilton's letter:

"The main point to consider is how much money will it take to run the state, county or city and then assess the property and levy a tax rate that will produce the revenue. It would flood the treasury of all the corporations to have the present tax rates on a 100 per cent. basis of value, which excess would be squandered, as all surplus is squandered by governing bodies; therefore I would suggest the following procedure:

"Let all governing bodies, including the legislature, next year fix a rate, say, of two-thirds of the present rate for the years 1920-21 and then pass a drastic law requiring assessors and boards of equalizers to fix a cash value of real estate on a basis of forced sales, and a value of personal property on the same basis as the real estate based on the case of stocks and bonds on the book or par value of the same, then the property owner and taxpayer would have some guarantee that there would not be any surplus to squander."

This letter may not—in fact, does not—suggest an intelligent, practicable solution of the questions at issue, but it does disclose the principal bone of contention. There is a popular resistance to raising more revenues to be dissipated by increasing expenses in a corresponding ratio. Mr. Hamilton is doubtless right in his idea that lifting of assessments—and consequently the proceeds of taxes—would be an occasion for finding new objects upon which to spend money, instead of for lowering the rate.

But Mr. Hamilton—nor no one else—can justify a tax system which permits such a wide disparity in the percentage of the assessed valuation of property as prevails in different portions of this state and which allows so much property to escape taxation altogether. It is not fair that property be assessed for state taxes at 20 per cent. of its value in one county and at 75 per cent. in another county, nor that the owner of personal property should enjoy immunity while his realty-owning neighbor pays the bills.

It is easy to write on paper a proposal that "all governing bodies" pledge themselves to a two-thirds tax rate scheme and that "a drastic law" be passed to govern assessments, but when that is done we are right where we started. To will may be present with us, but how to perform we find not. Assessment laws are already drastic, and there is no known power but intelligent public opinion to compel governing bodies to reduce the rate of taxation. Discussion of the problem, however, educates the public and may eventually lead to a solution. On second thought, Mr. Hamilton would probably not tax stock certificates where the property in which they represent shares is already taxed.

We can only reiterate our oft-expressed conviction that the governorship is the keystone in the fiscal policy of the state. As the responsible head of affairs, the election of a governor ought to develop and determine the issues which are to prevail in the administration of the state government. The election of legislators—important though it is—revolves around the greater event. There can be no unity in a program which does not include the governor.

Two years ago the Ninth district of Virginia elected Bascomb Sloop, a republican, by a plurality of only 1,358, out of a total vote of 31,308, and in this district there is always a bitter partisan fight. But there will be no contest this year. Last week the democratic district committee met and adopted unanimously the following resolution:

"Whereas, the minds and hearts of all our people are and should be turned toward the winning of the war for democracy, and whereas, we do believe that their time and energy should be diverted from patriotic activities into the requirements of a

stern partisan campaign, therefore we recommend to the democratic party in the Ninth Virginia congressional district that no nomination for congress be made this year."

Such a sentiment is wide-spread. Our people's minds are on the war and on nothing else. It is difficult to secure their attention to political campaigns, unless there is some issue of patriotism involved.

## JUDGE ROBERTS' LETTER.

In three important particulars, the letter of Judge A. H. Roberts outlining the platform on which he will seek the governorship embodies features which The News has long contended for. Briefly stated, these are the equality and uniformity of the tax system, the reduction of expenses by the lopping off of needless and superfluous offices, and the restoration of the state to financial solvency without increasing the tax rate. We believe all of these things ought to be and can be done, and we are glad to note that Judge Roberts thinks likewise.

While Judge Roberts does not mention specifically the offices he would dispense with, he comes dangerously near to it in some instances, much nearer than any other candidate has yet had the courage to do. The hint is rather broad that fewer assistant attorneys-general could be gotten along with without serious detriment to the public good. The condensation, correlation and articulation of various other forms of the public service also offer an almost unlimited field for opportunity and economy. It is encouraging to know that these are also in mind.

What is said upon the subjects of the boys' reformatory and girls' vocational school, convicts, the Herbert Domain, workmen's compensation, agriculture and good roads is sensible, humane and practicable. The same may be said as to court costs and criminal prosecutions. Inefficiency and waste are altogether too common. The judge perceives what everybody else has observed, that the enforcement of the temperance laws of the state has greatly reduced crime and his experience as a lawyer and a judge peculiarly fits him to effect needed reforms and reduce court costs in a corresponding ratio.

Judge Roberts feels disappointed, no doubt, as do many others of us, that the people have been so reluctant to undertake a general revision of the state constitution. It is so difficult to effectuate far-reaching reforms without this. But he suggests that a few amendments be submitted by the legislature which would be of much assistance. It seems that there would hardly be two opinions as to the propriety and advisability of limiting local legislation, authority to veto single appropriations, revision of court procedure and reforming the tax system. All these look to the cure of glaring evils.

## CHECK THE MOB SPIRIT.

The Atlanta Georgian well says: "Robert P. Frager was lynched in Illinois—and the leader of the lynching party said: 'I was drunk when I did it, and didn't know much about it.'"

"A small boy was sent up a tree to put a rope over the limb. The unfortunate man, against whom only vague charges of pro-Germanism were made—nothing proved—was hanged until he was dead, having previously asked his murderers to see that he was buried in the American flag."

"Nothing more regrettable, more cowardly, or more criminally unwise could be imagined. An irresponsible mob, led by a drunkard, who had a soldier's mule, and a man because the mob wanted excitement, and having started, could not stop."

"It is some satisfaction to know that five are held for the murder of a man, and that the state of Illinois may be relied upon to punish murder, even when the cowardice is labeled patriotism."

The mob in Illinois was inflamed with whisky. The only crime against woman reported against a soldier of the United States army in France was committed while under the influence of liquor. The guilty soldier was promptly court-martialed and shot.

Illinois is not going to leave the mob-murders unpunished. The governor of Tennessee has at last offered a reward for the arrest and punishment of members of that lynching party at Estill Springs, an occurrence as disgraceful as anything we charge against the Huns. We are glad that the sheriff of Franklin county made the request of the governor. He should not have waited on such a request. Gov. Rye has made an excellent executive, but he has been a little slow in this matter.

Nothing more ruinous can happen to this country than a spread of the spirit of lawlessness and development of the practice of taking law into one's own hands.

W. H. Childs, chairman of the fusion committee, and William Sulzer—"The same old Bill"—have been indicted for conspiracy to conceal expenditures of the Mitchell campaign in New York last fall. It has already been shown that these expenses approximated \$40 apiece for each vote obtained.

## What a Mother Gave.

(Grand Rapids Press.)

On all the bulletin boards at Camp Union, the big national training camp on Long Island, N. Y., have been posted copies of a letter sent by Mrs. M. E. Jenkins, of Holladay, Tenn., to the major in charge of the camp hospital. It reads:

"Allow me, as one who has lived until now, I am an old woman, to express to you my thanks and appreciation for your many courtesies to me as mother of Sergeant William B. Jenkins. I had hoped my boy would get his chance in France, but it was not to be, so I am as submissive to his death as if he had died in the trenches in Europe."

"Please accept my thanks for all your kindness and to any of his comrades that were with him in his sickness. With a sad heart, I dedicate these lines, but with a quickening pulse and an accelerated heart I look forward to the day when victory shall come to the brave boys who are giving their lives for our beloved land. I shall ever love a soldier boy. May

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

By Condo

LOOKING AT MALE FLIRT WHO HAS JUST COME IN, AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF EMPTY SEATS, HE PREFERS TO SETTLE HIMSELF INTO ONE OCCUPIED BY A LADY, MUCH TO HER ANNOYANCE.



## THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

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"Those little military suits for boys are very cute," remarked Mrs. Jarr, as she looked up from her fashion paper.

"In fact, the military effect predominates in all the fashions. Look at this riding habit for a young woman. It is modeled after the uniform of the royal flying corps."

"Yes, and the women are wearing skirts short enough to be called kilts," remarked Mr. Jarr.

"I saw two ladies on the avenue—big, strong, strapping girls—with pleated skirts of Scotch plaid, and I thought at first it was a couple of highland grenadiers in front of me."

Mrs. Jarr gave him such a look, but Mr. Jarr returned an innocent gaze. "I was thinking of getting our Willie out of those kilts in the Jarr Clan plaid, you remember," she said, finally. "But I'm glad I didn't, for Mrs. Slavinsky got her little boy one of those same kilts suits, and the salesman told her it was the identical tartan of the Slavinsky Clan."

"The Slavinsky Clan seems to have one strong Scottish trait," remarked Mr. Jarr, "and that's thrift. Young as he is, Master Izzy Slavinsky seems bent on putting money in his purse, or rather 'baubles in his apron' as the Highland Slavinskys would say."

"Well, I think that our Willie regretted that he objected so strongly to my getting him one of those little Scotch kilts suits," Mrs. Jarr went on. "He has since told me that young Isadore Slavinsky wears the costume and his little Glenroy cap, and lets one of the older boys lead him around the street with a string, to follow the street pianos; and people give him pennies, although the Italians with the street pianos strenuously object."

"Does our Willie want to be made a monkey of, too?" asked Mr. Jarr, in surprise.

"Oh, dear me! Is that it?" cried Mrs. Jarr. "Well, the children are so eager to get pennies to buy thrift stamps they will do most anything, you know. And, anyway, our Willie had nothing to do with it but to hold the string, I believe."

God's blessing be on you!"

No noble or more lofty sentiments have been uttered by a mother since the war began. Death's hand cannot be stayed when great numbers of men gathered together in the training camps any more than it could be at home, and many mothers have experienced the poignant sorrow that came to this dear old lady of Tennessee.

She said they have given their all uncomplainingly and with the true American spirit. We can do no less than meet the service and sacrifice of the mothers by giving our dollars, by buying liberty bonds with generous promptness, so that the period of strain and anxiety to all the mothers may be lessened and they may know that nothing has been spared to help their boys make the good fight. Read Mrs. Jenkins' letter again. At best a bond is a pretty small and trifling thing compared to a son's life and she shows us all by her example in patriotism.

## JUDGE WILLIAMS GOES TO NATION'S CAPITAL

Judge Joe V. Williams left Wednesday for Washington and New York on business. Judge Williams stated he could not reveal what his mission was, but it is assured it is in the interest of his city. He will return in several days.

## PRIVATE HENRY F. TYNDAL, COMPANY GETS "SHOWN" BY JUDGE

Private Henry F. Tyndal, Company B, Fifty-first infantry, entered the house of Mrs. EMMA MARABLE, corner of Avenue J and Twenty-seventh street, East Lake, and took \$7 out of Mrs. Marable's pocketbook for a joke, he said. Then he lost the money. Tyndal was on friendly terms with the Marables. When called before the provost officer Tyndal said he meant to return the money Saturday.

"Well, you didn't return it," said the officer.

"No."

"Isn't that stealing?"

"I wouldn't call it stealing, sir. 'Well, up in my state we always called it larceny. What state did you come from?"

"I came from Missouri," grinned Tyndal.

"I think I can show you," said the

## THE BELL OF LIBERTY.

(Written for The News by William Howard Case.)

Hark! What is that chime  
That breaks upon the ear,  
From out the dim recess of time,  
Resounding far and near?

It seems the years are cast aside,  
The nation now is young,  
And Freedom to her song has cried  
From that same iron tongue.

That liberty so dearly won,  
So prized these many years,  
Now menaced by the frightful Hun,  
Affronted by his jeers,  
Now stands imperiled in the land  
And calls her sons to war,  
And beckons them with outstretched hand,  
As in the days of yore.

Nobly they answered to the call,  
Our own heroic sires,  
And cheerfully they gave their all  
To Freedom's altar fires,  
And shall we, then, the past forget?  
Be deaf when country calls?  
In craven suppliance shall we let  
This foe within our walls?

Not every one may gird the sword  
And face the foeman's steel,  
But all may help with one accord  
To make the tyrant yield;  
Ope wide the purse with generous hand,  
And let a golden shower  
Show to the world 'ou've done your part  
In this auspicious hour.

## HOW GERMANS EXPLOIT BELGIANS

Washington, April 15.—The systematic exploitation of Belgium by the Germans under the so-called "Rathenau plan" is revealed for the first time to the American people in the latest publication of the committee on public information, issued today, entitled "German Treatment of Conquered Territory." It is based upon unpublished reports to our department of state, and other sources as yet little known in this country, and presents an appalling record of calculated German greed and brutality. Much of the most damning evidence is derived from the official orders and other utterances of the Germans themselves.

The "Rathenau plan" was suggested early in August, 1914, by Dr. Walter Rathenau, president of the General Electric company of Germany. It consisted essentially in the formation, under his direction, of a bureau to procure an unfailing supply of essential raw materials for the war, such as rubber, saltpetre, metals, etc., both by purchase in neutral markets and by seizure in occupied territories. Secretly a more dastardly purpose was pursued. "The plan aimed not merely at making war support war by contributions and requisitions forced from the conquered peoples. It also sought to destroy the industries among the subject peoples so that it might not be possible to build them up again for some year, if at all. In the meantime the German authorities counted upon their ability to capture the markets of the world for their own wares."

As an example of the deliberate crushing of Belgian competition, the case of the glass industry is cited. This was one of the most flourishing industries of Belgium before the war, and German glass manufacturers could not compete with it in the export trade. In the words of the head of the German organization of glass manufacturers, "It became vital to the German manufacturers of glassware that the Belgian manufacturers should be stopped from going to neutral markets." Accordingly, the German administration in Belgium was appealed to, and it promulgated "an order stopping importation, transit and exportation" of these goods. Seizure of Belgian trade secrets was another feature of this typically German plan.

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